

In 2013, Chay then became one of the lead lobbyists for the American Association for Justice as a part of the Federal Relations Counsel. Here, he led and managed advocacy efforts, managed complex legislative projects, and directly advocated civil justice issues including, intellectual property rights, national security, transportation safety, and consumer protection.

Returning to serve his home district in 2015, Chay returned to our office, where he served as Legislative Director, then a dynamic Chief of Staff until 2020. Here he brought his same hardworking attitude and political astuteness to expand and uplift Alabama's 7th Congressional District. He was not only a valued member of my staff but as a fellow native of Selma, Alabama Chay's success continues to be celebrated throughout my district. Chay serves as the embodiment of what residents from the Black Belt can accomplish when given the opportunity.

On behalf of Alabama's 7th Congressional District, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the remarkable accomplishments of Cachavious English, a true servant leader whose achievements have inspired a generation of future trailblazers from across the Black Belt.

### BACK THE BLUE

SPEECH OF

**HON. KEN CALVERT**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 7, 2022*

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to express my heartfelt appreciation for our law enforcement officers.

The men and women in blue who keep our streets safe are heroes. Every day when they put on their uniform, they do so mindful that they may be called upon to put themselves in harm's way. By stepping forward and selflessly protecting us, they make everything else possible. The recent violence against our police officers is a stark reminder of the dangers of the job.

On May 31, 2021, Sergeant Dominic Vaca of the San Bernardino County Sheriffs Department was killed in the line of duty. Sgt. Vaca spent 17 years protecting the Inland Empire and died a hero. He is just one of 346 officers who was shot in the line of duty in 2021.

Homicide rates in California rose 17 percent last year—on top of a 31 percent rise in 2020. I believe these increases can be in large part attributed to radical calls to defund our police and Democrats' soft on crime rhetoric.

Thankfully, most Americans see our officers for the agents of good that they are. In left-leaning states, however, like California, Democrats have enacted laws that actually make it more difficult for our law enforcement officers to do their job. This is wrong. This is dangerous.

I specifically would like to thank those that keep my community safe. Sheriff Chad Bianco; the Riverside County Sheriffs Department who serve our county and contract cities; as well as the officers of the Corona, Menifee, and Murrieta Police Departments; and all those who serve Riverside County and across the Inland Empire. I thank them for the selfless and heroic work they do.

I stand fully behind our law enforcement officers and will continue to vote for policies that support public safety. We can never repay the men and women who wear the uniform and keep our loved ones safe. But we can—and we should—always have their back.

### IN RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL MENTORING MONTH

**HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 8, 2022*

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of National Mentoring Month.

January 2022 marked the 20th anniversary of National Mentoring Month, an annual campaign to focus attention on the need for mentors, as well as how each of us can work together to increase the number of mentors to help ensure positive outcomes for our young people.

Mentoring programs across the country make our communities stronger by driving impactful relationships that increase social capital for young people and provide invaluable support networks.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, mentoring programs have stepped up to fill gaps for young people and families, connecting them with resources and ensuring that mentoring relationships continue virtually to ensure that physical distancing does not mean social disconnection.

Mentoring plays a pivotal role in career exploration and supports workplace skills by helping young people set career goals, equipping mentors with the skills needed to support the professional growth of young people, and drives positive outcomes for young people and businesses. Quality mentoring promotes healthy relationships and communication, positive self-esteem, emotional well-being, and growth of a young person and their relationships with other adults.

Students who meet regularly with their mentors are 52 percent less likely than their peers to skip a day of school and youth who face an opportunity gap, but have a mentor, are 55 percent more likely to be enrolled in college than those who did not have a mentor. Youth who meet regularly with their mentors are 46 percent less likely than their peers to start using drugs and 27 percent less likely to start drinking.

National Mentoring Month is the time of year to celebrate, elevate, and encourage mentoring across our country and recruit caring adult mentors. I encourage all of my colleagues to join me in this celebration and thank those individuals who are willing to step up and help shape the next generation of young Americans.

### COMMEMORATING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF HYATTSVILLE MAYOR KEVIN WARD

**HON. STENY H. HOYER**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 8, 2022*

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life and legacy of Mayor

Kevin Ward. The Hyattsville community lost a trusted leader and a strong advocate when Kevin tragically lost his life to suicide on January 22. He was just forty-four years old and left behind a husband, two sons, and a grandson. His loss is deeply felt across the community and throughout Prince George's County in my district, and the outpouring of grief is a testament to the impact he left on so many. There was no one more willing to lend an ear to a neighbor or to do whatever it took to change someone's life for the better in the community to which he gave so much of his energy, talent, and love.

Kevin saw Hyattsville as 'the jewel in the crown of Prince George's County,' and he dedicated himself to making that jewel shine brighter. In 2015, Kevin was elected to the Hyattsville City Council, and during his tenure as a Council member and later as Council President, he promoted an inclusive agenda to help Hyattsville residents thrive and get ahead. He cosponsored legislation aimed at making Hyattsville more welcoming to and inclusive of immigrants and voted to expand the municipal franchise to include non-citizen residents. Under his leadership, Hyattsville experienced unprecedented economic growth with the expansion of the Gateway Arts District and creation of new housing.

In 2020, Kevin became Interim Mayor and was elected to a full term last May. As Hyattsville's first openly gay and second Black mayor, Kevin was a trailblazer not only in representation but in the boldness of his vision. During his time in office, he was a champion for youth, affordable housing, and sustainability efforts. He worked zealously to help residents throughout the pandemic, partnering with the First United Methodist Church of Hyattsville to set up vaccination clinics and food distribution for those in need.

Kevin was more than an exemplary public servant: he was a devoted father, grandfather, and husband. His love for his husband Chad, his sons Sydney and Norman, and his grandson Elijah inspired him to work for a better future for them and all who shared their community. I offer my deepest condolences to Kevin's family, friends, and neighbors, who will surely be reflecting on his legacy for a long time to come and who have already been an enormous support to Chad, their sons, and their grandson during this very difficult time. Through the darkness of this moment, surely Kevin's memory will be the inspiring light to guide the community forward into brighter days to come. I hope all of my colleagues will join me in remembering Kevin Ward and his life of service, passion, and love for his community.

The rise in suicide among Black Americans is a challenge we as a nation cannot ignore. The pandemic has exacerbated mental health struggles for millions of Americans, and it is essential that we all do our part to reach out and help others who may be in need of assistance. I urge anyone struggling with grief or mental health challenges to reach out and seek support from the many resources available, including the National Suicide Hotline at (800) 273-8255.

HONORING DAVE LENTELL AS  
IOWAN OF THE WEEK

**HON. CYNTHIA AXNE**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 8, 2022*

Mrs. AXNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dave Lentell as Iowan of the Week. Dave is the Lead Lender Relations Specialist at the Small Business Administration (SBA) Iowa District office. Dave lives in Waukee, and through his almost 29 years with the Iowa SBA he held countless conversations connecting with small business owners throughout Iowa and across the 3rd District. I'm glad to take this opportunity to recognize Dave for his dedicated public service for Iowa's small businesses over the course of his career.

Dave first joined the Iowa SBA in 1993 for an internship while studying at Drake University. Quickly after starting his work, the Great Flood of 1993 happened, and Dave stepped up and took an outsized role in facilitating disaster relief information. Dave was offered full-time work after graduating college and has remained with the Iowa SBA since then. Over that period, Dave has helped other businesses and homeowners through periodic disaster events—while also offering technical support and advice to businesses seeking to breakthrough. Dave most appreciates the ability to connect with business owners and lenders to identify paths forward for Iowa's small business economy—which includes over 273,000 small businesses.

Since COVID-19 began, Dave has once again stepped up as he did in 1993—but in this case, the pandemic affected every small business in Iowa. With SBA charged to administer disaster relief programs such as Economic Impact Disaster Loans (EIDL) and the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), Dave's engagement with the business and lending community increased. Through collaboration with businesses directly, and associated organizations and groups, Dave worked hard to ensure that information was distributed throughout the Iowa community and has earned the respect of his SBA colleagues, who nominated him to my office for recognition.

While we all seek a general return to normalcy, Dave relates that business models have changed during the pandemic—and in many cases that change is here to stay. While the role of SBA may see changes in the future, Dave's service over the past 28 years has certainly been welcome help for our District. I am glad to honor Dave Lentell as Iowan of the Week.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 170TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CITY OF OXFORD

**HON. MIKE ROGERS**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 8, 2022*

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 170th Anniversary of the City of Oxford.

A part of Alabama's Third Congressional District, Oxford, is located in Calhoun County.

The Muscogee Creek Nation called Choccolocco Valley home for 12,000 years. In 1540, Hernando DeSoto crossed the region on behalf of Spain in search of riches. France claimed the lands in 1699 after successfully establishing settlements at Mobile, New Orleans and Biloxi. Even though France controlled the area that would later become Oxford, it was still inhabited by the Creek Nation. England gained possession after the signing of the Treaty of Paris at the end of the Seven Years War. In 1789, the entire northern portion of Alabama was owned by Georgia. The lands were given to the federal government in 1802 as part of the Mississippi Territory.

Alabama was admitted to the Union on December 14, 1819. Benton County was incorporated on December 18, 1832, and included present-day Calhoun, Cleburne and portions of Cherokee and Talladega Counties. At the time of incorporation, the only incorporated towns in Benton County were Jacksonville and White Plains. In the early 1830s, the Snow and Simmons families were two of the first European descent families to settle among the Creek natives. Snow owned the land south of present-day Choccolocco Street, and Simmons owned the land north. An early legend recalls the area south was called "Skace Grease" and the area north "Lick Skillet." Local folklore says a traveler was passing through and needed a place for rest and food. As he was visiting, he was directed to "lick the skillet" because they were "skace of grease."

Oxford was established on February 7, 1852, the bill proposed by Representative Matthew Allen of Benton County. The limits of the town included one square mile from the center at the male academy on Second Street. Elisha S. Simmons, Edmund P. Gains, John A. Turnipseed, Stephen C. Williams, and Woodson Seay were authorized to run on a ballot for the election of three council members and an intendant (mayor). It was decided that on the first Saturday of each March, annual municipal elections would be held for offices of council and mayor.

On February 21, 1860, Oxford was chartered for the second time due to redrawing of boundary lines and the changing of the name of Benton County to Calhoun County. The limits of the town included a half-mile in each direction from the railroad culvert at Spring Street. Elections were to be held on the first Monday of each March annually. In this incorporation, the law called for the election of seven councilmembers and an intendant. The councilmembers and intendant were given the power to elect a marshal, clerk and treasurer. Those who have served as mayor of Oxford, respectively, include Elisha S. Simmons, Dr. Stephen C. Williams, Samuel C. Kelly, James S. Kelly, Edgar H. Hanna, Charles T. Hilton, William J. Borden, John B. McCain, Dr. Thomas C. Hill, Robert P. Thomason, William H. Griffin, John N. Gunnels, Thomas A. Howle, Maj. William A. Orr, George W. Eichelberger, William C. Gray, Dreadzil P. Haynes, Asa C. Allen, William R. Norton, Davis C. Cooper, Robert R. Pope, Dr. Thomas B. Howle, Carl D. Pace, Hemphill G. Whiteside, Alvis A. Hamric, Bester A. Adams, Earl R. Martin, Therman E. Whitmore, Leon Smith, and Alton Craft.

The Oxford Police Department was established at the time of the first incorporation. However, the earliest police force only included one town marshal. The first recorded

marshal for Oxford was Francis M. Gardner, who served in the early 1880s. The Oxford Fire Department was organized on May 18, 1884, as a volunteer department. Major William A. Orr served as the first chief.

In 1904, the citizens of Oxford were convinced that the town needed a permanent city hall for the purposes of conducting municipal business. In September of that year, it was decided city hall would be located in a building on Main Street and the fire department would share the building. An armory was established adjacent to the building for the Calhoun Rifles. The calaboose was located several yards south on Spring Street.

Madam Speaker, please join me in wishing Oxford a happy 170th anniversary.

BIOECONOMY RESEARCH AND  
DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2021

SPEECH OF

**HON. DARREN SOTO**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 2, 2022*

Mr. SOTO. Madam Speaker, I want to commend the authors of the America COMPETES Act of 2022 for including \$52 billion to incentivize private-sector investments and continued American leadership in semiconductor manufacturing to help address supply chain disruptions and ensure that more semiconductors are produced here at home.

Within my central Florida district is the NeoCity technology campus which is recognized as an emerging microelectronics and advanced manufacturing hub, that has already made synergies with institutions of higher education across Florida and key partnerships with the U.S. Department of Defense and U.S. Department of Commerce. NeoCity is home to BRIDG, a not-for-profit, public-private partnership specializing in domestic semiconductor research, development, and manufacturing. Imec, a world-renowned international research and development organization active in semiconductor design and architecture. SUSS MicroTec, a leading supplier of equipment and process solutions for the semiconductor industry. And SkyWater Technology, the only U.S. owned and operated pure play trusted foundry, that works on leading-edge advanced packaging technology. They all work in collaboration out of the Center for Neovation, one of the most state-of-the-art advanced manufacturing facilities in the western hemisphere. As envisioned by this important legislation, the facilities, and experts at BRIDG, imec, SUSS MicroTec, and SkyWaterTechnology offer immediate capability to accelerate U.S. production of critical semiconductor chips, strengthen the domestic supply chain so chips are made in America, and turbocharge our research capacity. Equally as important, the NeoCity Academy, a public STEM magnet high school, is training the leaders of tomorrow's science and technology workforce.

I am proud of the work being undertaken in my district to support domestic semiconductor manufacturing technology development as they work to address the supply chain. I look forward to working with the Administration and the U.S. Department of Commerce on implementation of the American Competes Act and the CHIPS for America Fund.